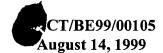
Int'l Appl. No.
Date





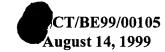
On page 14, line 1, please cancel the word "CLAIMS" and substitute in its place –WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:--.

## IN THE CLAIMS

## Please amend the claims as follows:

- 1. (Amended) [Isolated and purified genetic sequence (1) controlling in trans] An isolated polynucleotide which controls the expression of a xylanase promoter-operator nucleotide sequence in trans, comprising [(2)] at least about 100 nucleotides of SEQ ID NO:1, its complement, or a homolog, wherein said homolog controls the expression of said xylanase promoter-operator.
- 2. (Amended) [Isolated and purified genetic sequence] The isolated polynucleotide according to claim 1, [being a nucleotide sequence which presents] with more than 60% homology with the nucleotide sequence SEQ ID NO:1 or its complementary strand.
- 3. (Amended) [Isolated and purified genetic sequence] The isolated polynucleotide genetic sequence according to claim 2, [which presents] with more than 80%[, preferably more than 90%, more specifically more than 95%,] homology with the nucleotide sequence SEQ ID NO:1 or its complementary strand.
- 4. (Amended) [Isolated and purified genetic sequence] The isolated polynucleotide according to claim 1, [any one of the preceding claims, being the nucleotide sequence SEQ ID NO:1, its complementary strand or a portion thereof having more than 100 nucleotides and] wherein said polynucleotide [encoding] encodes a peptide [controlling] which positively and/or negatively controls the activation of a xylanase promoter-operator nucleotide sequence.
- 5. (Amended) [Isolated and purified genetic sequence] The isolated polynucleotide according to claim 1, [being] encoding an amino-acid sequence [which presents] having more than 60% homology with SEQ ID NO:2.
- 6. (Amended) [Isolated and purified genetic sequence] The isolated polynucleotide, according to claim 5, [being] wherein the amino-acid sequence

Int'l Appl. No. Date





[which] presents more than 80%[, preferably more than 90%, more specificalloy more than 95%,] homology with SEQ ID NO:2.

- 7. (Amended) [Isolated and purified genetic sequence] The isolated polynucleotide according to claim 1, [being] encoding the amino-acid sequence SEQ ID NO 2 or a portion thereof having more than 50 amino-acids [which is capable of controlling] wherein said portion controls positively and/or negatively in trans the expression of a xylanase promoter-operator nucleotide sequence.
- 8. (Amended) [Nucleotide] A polynucleotide construct [(6)] comprising the isolated and purified polynucleotide [sequence] according to [any one of the claims 1 to 4] claim 1, operably linked to a xylanase promoter-operator poynucleotide [sequence (2) and possibly a nucleotide sequence (5) which is cis-activated by said xylanase promoter-operator nucleotide sequence (2)].
- 9. (Amended) [Vector (7), preferably a plasmid,] A vector comprising the isolated and purified polynucleotide [sequence (2)] according to [any one of the claims 1 to 7 or the nucleotide construct (6) according to claim 8] claim 1.
- 10. (Amended) [Cell]A cell transformed by the vector according to claim 9 [and which allows the expression of the isolated and purified genetic sequence according to any one of the claims 1 to 7].

## Please add the following Claims:

- The isolated polynucleotide according to claim 3, with more than 90% homology with the nucleotide sequence SEQ ID NO:1 or its complementary strand.
- 12. The isolated genetic sequence according to claim 3, with more than 95% homology with the nucleotide sequence SEQ ID NO:1 or its complementary strand.
- 13. The isolated polynucleotide of Claim 1 further comprising a cofactor.
- 14. The isolated polynucleotide of Claim 11 wherein said cofactor is selected from the group consisting of glucose, xylan, and mixtures thereof.
  - 15. A method for the up-regulation or down-regulation of xylanase, comprising: providing the polynucleotide of Claim 1 to a cell which expresses xylanase.
  - 16. The method of Claim 15, further comprising providing a cofactor.



